

## **Section 33 Fact Sheet**

### **The Corps of Engineers is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Section 33 Bank Stabilization Program for the Missouri River and is seeking public input.**

- The recurrent, devastating flooding of the Missouri River and the 1930 to 1941 drought led to the construction of the dams on the Missouri River. In response to three exceptionally large floods in 1943, the Corps developed a proposal to control the upper and lower basins of the Missouri. Colonel Lewis Pick, the Missouri River engineer for the Corps at that time and W. Glenn Sloan, the Bureau of Reclamation engineer each devised a plan to control the downstream flood problem. The two plans were combined to create the Pick-Sloan Plan, which was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944.
- Congress authorized the Section 33 program in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1988 (modified in WRDA 1990) allowing the Corps of Engineers to assist affected landowners in alleviating the effects of erosion caused by releases from dams. The authorized measures include maintaining or rehabilitating existing bank stabilization structures, constructing new bank stabilization structures, purchasing affected property, and monetary compensation to affected landowners.
- The purpose of the PEIS is to allow for site-specific solutions to be implemented in the future. This will require that the PEIS identify the amount of bank stabilization that can be sustained in each reach without causing irreparable harm to the river's ecosystem. The PEIS will also identify the types of mitigation that will be needed as well as the general level of mitigation that will be required.
- Based on the work being accomplished by the Waterways Experiment Station (WES), the PEIS will evaluate two alternatives for each river reach plus the No-Action alternative. One alternative will be for a 20 percent increase in bank stabilization structures and another will be a 50 percent increase in bank stabilization structures. These alternatives represent the structural components of "new bank stabilization structures" and their identification for analysis does not necessarily preclude analysis of other reasonable alternatives. Under the "No-Action" alternative of the PEIS, implementation of the program would be in the same capacity as it is being implemented today.
- The Missouri River reaches in the Section 33 program include: Fort Peck Dam to about twenty miles upstream of Lake Sakakawea, Garrison Dam to the upper end of Lake Oahe, Oahe Dam to about Pierre, South Dakota, about five miles downstream from Fort Randall Dam to Springfield, South Dakota, Gavins Point Dam to about 20 miles upstream of Sioux City, Iowa. See map on the reverse side of affected areas.
- There are 383 miles of open-river in the reaches below the dams. There is no open-river between Big Bend Dam and Lake Francis Case. The erosion loss rates vary from 15 acres per year below Ft. Randall Dam to 90 acres per year below Ft. Peck Dam. The total estimated 50-year erosion loss is 1.2 percent of total valley (bluff-to-bluff) land.
- Three projects have been constructed to date under the Section 33 authority. These include a project to protect a large water intake structure at the Buford-Trenton Irrigation District in Williams County, North Dakota. The other two projects protect agricultural land; one protects land in McKenzie County, North Dakota and the other protects land in McCone County, Montana.
- Public involvement is an important part of the PEIS. The primary objectives of the public involvement plan are to: establish a public involvement framework for the duration of the Section 33 Program, provide clear and concise information to the public, conduct Tribal consultation and provide opportunities for participation by all segments of the public.

<b>Public Meetings</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Topics</b>
First series (Tribes, local interest, agencies)	Summer 2002	Receive comments on revised scope Present schedule and identify public involvement opportunities
As needed	Fall 2002 through spring 2003	Discuss issues with special interests, agencies, and tribes on an as needed basis
Second series (Public hearing)	Fall 2003	Present information in the PEIS and receive comments on PEIS
As needed	Winter 2003/2004	Discuss issues raised by special interests, agencies, and tribes during review of the PEIS



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Omaha District

# MISSOURI RIVER BETWEEN FORT PECK DAM, MONTANA AND GAVINS POINT DAM, NEBRASKA

(SECTION 33)

